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TITLE Indian Students in Minnesota's Private Colleges - Who They Are, Where They Come From, Where They're Going, What They Think of Their Experience in College.

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ABSTRACT

The study is a survey of 128 American Indian students who are attending 12 of Minnesota's private colleges this year (1974). Questionnaires completed by 55% of the Indian students during January and February of 1974 told who they are, where they are in their higher education programs, what their major fields of study are, what problems loom large for them, and what recommendations they have for improving the Indian education programs the colleges are sponsoring. Survey data are presented in tabulated form. The students represent 15 different tribes from 12 different states. Chippewas are the most numerous, comprising 60% of the total. The majority of the respondents are 21 years of age, although the range was from 17 to 50. Women comprise 52% of the sample. Marital status data indicate that the majority of them are single. The most common degree objective is bachelor of arts. The major most selected is Indian studies, followed by nursing and social work. The source of financial support comes from tribal/BIA grants. (FF)

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Indian Students in

Minnesota's Private Colleges

Who They Are

Where They Come From

Where They're Going

What They Think of Their Experience in College

Minnesota Private College Research Foundation
Indian Education Project

12 March 1974

Re 007763

One hundred twenty eight Indian students are attending 12 of Minnesota's private colleges this year. Questionnaires completed by 55 per cent of them during January and February of 1974 provide a pretty good picture of who they are, where they come from, their ages, their degrees of Indian ancestry, where they are in their higher education programs, what their major fields of study are, what problems loom large for them, what recommendations they have for improving the Indian education programs the colleges are sponsoring.

This is what we have learned from the completed questionnaires:

Tribes
represented

They represent 15 different tribes from 12 different states. Chippewas are the most numerous, comprising 60% of the total.

Degree of
Indian ancestry

12% are pure, or to use the white man's terminology, full-blood Indians

12% are between $3/4$ and $4/4$

32% are between $1/2$ and $3/4$

32% are between $1/4$ and $1/2$

12% are less than $1/4$

Ages

60% are 21 or younger.

30% are between 22 and 30.

The youngest is 17. The oldest is 50.

Sex

48% are men

52% are women

This looks good, except that the two sexes are not evenly distributed by college.

Marital
Status

83% are single

13% are married

4% have been married

Where they
come from

12 different states

12 different reservations

7 different cities

30% are from reservation communities

14% from rural, non-reservation towns

46% from urban areas

<u>Where are they in college?</u>	41% are freshmen 19% are sophomores 17% are juniors 14% are seniors 1 is in graduate school 5 are special students
<u>What are their degree objectives?</u>	53% are working for B.A. degrees. 12% for B.S. degrees. 6% for Bachelor of Fine Arts 29% have not decided
<u>Major courses of study</u>	They are pursuing 31 different majors. 12 are studying for health service related professions or vocations. 9 are Indian studies majors. 7 are education and/or counseling majors. 6 are preparing for social work.
<u>Previous colleges attended</u>	36% attended other colleges before entering the ones in which they are now enrolled.
<u>Special assistance in preparing for college</u>	17%
<u>How did they learn about colleges they are now attending?</u>	23% from a college recruiter 17% from friends or relatives 14% from a high school teacher or counselor 11% from college promotional information
<u>Where do they live now?</u>	50% on campus 50% off campus
<u>Do the colleges they're attending offer counseling specifically for Indian students?</u>	Yes - 80% No - 20%

College Indian
programs/activi-
ties with maxi-
mum participation

Indian studies 60%
Indian week 50%
Local Indian activities/events 50%
Indian club or Indian student association 46%

Major problems
in college

Poor study habits 50%
Lack of preparation in high school 40%
Lack of financial support 40%
Not enough Indians of opposite sex 40%

Experience great-
est difficulty in
meeting expenses
for

Transportation
Tuition/fees
Social activities

Sources of
financial support

Tribal/BIA grants 70%
Part-time job/work study 57%
College scholarships 60%
State Indian scholarship grant 34%
EOG 23%
Loans 23%
Family 20%

These percentages relate to number of students, not
to amounts of financial assistance provided.

Importance of
special activi-
ties to meet
social needs of
Indian students

Very important 77%
Important 20%
Slightly important)
or not important) 3%

What attracted
them to the
colleges they're
attending?

Other Indian students
Indian studies
Indian faculty and/or staff
High academic standards
Good broad program of studies
School's reputation as "outstanding"
Good Indian coordinator/counselor
Adequate financial assistance
Indian club
Emergency financial assistance
Small college
Good counseling

<u>Importance of</u>	Very important	70%
<u>classes designed to</u>	Important	24%
<u>meet needs of</u>	Slightly or not important	6%
<u>Indian students</u>		

	Indian studies
	Indian history
	Indian languages
	Indian culture
	Indian art
<u>Courses they</u>	Indian current social issues
<u>want, or want</u>	Indian studies in greater depth
<u>improved</u>	Indian studies taught by Indians
	Indian studies taught on full-term basis
	Special "catch-up" courses in subjects where high
	school preparation was inadequate
	"How to study" courses

<u>Special efforts</u>	Yes	50%
<u>being made to</u>	No	17%
<u>deal with Indian</u>	Don't know	33%
<u>student problems?</u>		

<u>Does college need</u>	Yes	66%
<u>to improve working</u>	No	20%
<u>relationships with</u>	No response	14%
<u>Indian students?</u>		

	1 - Increase Indian student enrollments.
	2 - Develop greater awareness in general student body, faculty and staff that Indian culture, traditions, values are important.
<u>Areas in which</u>	3 - Provide more adequate financial assistance.
<u>improvement is</u>	4 - Improve communications between students and staff.
<u>most needed</u>	5 - Greater understanding by Financial aid office of socio-economic, cultural situation of Indian students

More detailed tabulations follow

70 Indian student responses (Jan.-Feb. 1974) to questionnaires re themselves
and their experience in ten of Minnesota's private colleges

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

<u>1-By tribe</u>		<u>By degree of 2-Indian ancestry</u>		<u>3-By age</u>		<u>4-By sex</u>		<u>5-By marital status</u>	
Apache	1	less than 1/4	8	17	1	Male	34	Single	58
Blackfeet	2	1/4 but less than 1/2	23	18	17			Married	9
Cherokee	2			19	9	Female	<u>36</u>	Separated	1
Cree	1	1/2 but less than 3/4	22	20	8		70	Divorced	<u>2</u>
Chippewa	41	3/4 but less than 4/4	8	21	6				
Choctaw	1			22	7				
Crow	2	4/4	8	23	2				70
Haida	1			24	3				
Laguna	1	not indicated	<u>1</u>	25	2				
Navajo	1		70	26	6				
Oneida	3			27	1				
Plinger	2			30	2				
Seneca	1			31	1				
Sioux	10			33	2				
Winnebago	<u>1</u>			35	2				
	70			50	<u>1</u>				
					70				

The number appearing before each tabulation refers to the question number on the questionnaire.

6 - Where they come from

State	Reservation	Res. totals	Rural, non-res.	Urban	Urban totals	Not indicated	State totals
1 - Alaska			1				1
2 - Arizona	Navajo - 1	1					1
3 - Illinois				Chicago 1	1		1
4 - Iowa				Waterloo 1	1		1
5 - Minnesota	(Fond du Lac - 1) (Leech Lake - 2) (Nett Lake - 1) (Red Lake - 4)	8	8	Duluth 8 Mpls. 15 St. Paul 5	28	3	47
6 - Montana	(Blackfeet - 2) (Crow - 2)	4		Billings 1	1		5
7 - New Mexico				Albuquerque 1	1		1
8 - No. Dakota	Standing Rock - 1	1					1
9 - Oklahoma			1				1
10 - Pennsylvania			1				1
11 - So. Dakota	Pine Ridge - 4	4					4
12 - Wisconsin	(Lac Court d'Oreilles - 1) (Lac du Flambeau - 1) (Oneida - 1)	3	3				6
		21	14	32	3		70

7 - Degree Objectives

Baccalaureate	3
B.A.	34
B.S.	8
B.F.A.	4
M.A.	3
Undecided	2
Not indicated	14
None	2
Total	70

8 - Class Status

Freshman	29
Sophomore	13
Junior	12
Senior	10
Graduate	1
Special	5
Total	70

9 -

Majors

Business Adm.	1	Physical Education	1
Pre-Med.	1	Special Education	1
Social work	6	Art	2
Nursing	7	Music	1
Lab. Tech.	1	English	5
Med. records adm.	1	History	4
Occup. therapy	2	American Indian History	1
Graphic design/Photog.	1	Biology	4
Fine arts/Painting	1	Political Science	1
Design	1	Psychology	3
Home Economics	1	Sociology	2
Art Education	1	Psychology/Sociology	1
Business Education	1	Philosophy	1
Counseling	1	Indian Studies	9
Elementary Education	1	Individual Designed	1
Secondary Education	1	Interdisciplinary	5
		Undecided	5
		Total	70

10 - Previous Colleges -
Years Attended

1 yr.	12
2 yrs.	6
3 yrs.	5
4 yrs.	1
7 yrs.	1
None	45
Total	70

11 - Special Assistance in preparing
for college

Upward Bound	4
Project Breakthrough	1
ABC	2
Prep. School	2
NAM	1
High school counselor	1
Summer school	1
None	58
Total	70

12 - Colleges responses received from

College of St. Catherine	4
College of St. Scholastica	24
College of St. Teresa	3
College of St. Thomas	5
Concordia College (Moorhead)	7
Concordia College (St. Paul)	1
Gustavus Adolphus College	1
Hamline University	1
Macalester College	12
Mpls. College of Art & Design	4
Saint Olaf College	8
Total	70

14 - College residence

On campus	35
Off campus	35
Total	70

13 - How did you become familiar with with the college you're attending?

College recruiter	16
Present/former students	8
Friends/relatives	12
Priest	1
College promotional info.	8
United Scholarship Service	1
Project Breakthrough	2
School reputation	2
Indian studies reputation	2
High school tchr/cslr.	9
Near home	2
College sponsored college career day	1
Related federal employment	1
Not indicated	5

15 - College offer counseling specifically for Indians?

Yes	56
No	13
No response	1
Total	70

16 - College Indian programs in which you have participated

Indian studies	40
Indian counselor service	12
Tutoring	11
Indian club	32
Local Indian activities/ events	35
Indian Week	37
Pow-wows	2
Indian Awareness Program	2
Minority cultural exchange week	1
NIEA convention	2
None	8

What do you believe to be
17 - your problems in college?

Lack of preparation in high school	27
Poor study habits	36
Homesickness	13
Too few friends	13
Lack of financial support	28
Home problems	14
Not enough Indian of opposite sex	26
Not enough Indians!	1

Difficulty in meeting various college expenses
18 - (Rank ordered - 1=most difficult; 6=least difficult)

	Most Difficult					Least Difficult	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Social activities	15	11	9	5	18		
Room and board	7	14	7	11	11		
Transportation	18	12	17	9	6		
Books and supplies	7	11	19	15	5		
Tuition and fees	16	2	5	9	14		
Personal needs							12

19 - Sources of financial support

State Grant	11
State Indian scholarship Grant	24
EOG	16
College scholarship	40
Church scholarship	1
Tribal/BIA Grant	50
Part-time job	21
Work-study	20
Family	13
NDSL	12
Federally Insured Loan	3
College loan	1
Vocational Rehabilitation	1
Social Security	3

21 - Aspects of college program which attract Indian students

Indian studies
 Other Indian students
 Indian faculty staff
 High academic standards
 School's reputation as "Outstanding"
 Good Indian coordinator/counselor
 Small college
 Good counseling
 Adequate financial assistance
 Indian student association
 Emergency financial assistance
 Personal interest in Indian students

20 - Importance Special Indian Activities to Meet Social Needs of Indian students

Very important	45
Important	16
Slightly important	6
Not important	<u>3</u>
Total	70

22 - Importance of classes designed to meet needs of Indian students

Very important	48
Important	17
Slightly important	2
Not important	<u>3</u>
Total	70

22-A- Courses that would be desirable

Indian studies
 Indian history
 Indian languages
 Indian culture
 Indian studies taught on full-term basis
 Indian studies taught in greater depth
 Special (remedial) English
 How to study

23 - Special efforts to deal
with Indian student problems?

Yes	36
No	12
Don't know	<u>22</u>
Total	70

24 - College needs to improve
working relationships with
Indian students?

Yes	46
No	14
No response	<u>10</u>
Total	70

25 - Special concerns not being met

Too few Indians in student body
Inadequate financial assistance

23-A - Describe efforts

Indian coordinators, counselors
helpful

24-A - Areas in which improvement
is most needed

Increase Indian student enrollments

Greater awareness in general student
body/staff that Indian culture,
traditions, values are important

More adequate financial assistance

Greater understanding by Financial
Aid office

More serious commitment, attention
by college to Indian education
program

Improve communications between
students and staff